

A THEORETICAL INTERLUDE

oppressed nations of the colonies and semi-colonies," and reminded the Congress that "the Communists have to support, extend and participate in anti-imperialist mass activities, not excluding those which are under national reformist leadership." ²²

The new lenient attitude toward the national reformist elements was accentuated by the stress laid on combating anti-French and anti-British brands of imperialism. This was eloquently expressed in the speech made by Comrade Nadir from Syria. While reminding the delegates that his country was a "colony of French imperialism/" he concentrated on a description of German and Italian fascist activities as especially dangerous to the Soviet Union. "We have developed," said Nadir, "great activity in the struggle against imperialist war and for the defense of the Soviet Union. There was not one campaign conducted by the Party which was not linked with these two questions." ²³

It was evident that the security of the Proletarian State in this grave hour of German resurgence overshadowed all other aspects of the colonial question. An imperialist war, which, according to the Sixth Congress, was welcome as an "objective factor" providing a "deep revolutionary wave," was now vigorously condemned since it might threaten Russia. Nadir's admission that "the defense of the Soviet Union" was in the forefront of party activities left no doubt that the cause of world revolution was subordinated to and identified with the interests of the Proletarian State. The evidence that the Communist parties and the Comintern were treated primarily as tools of Soviet foreign policy could not be clearer.

Thus the Seventh Congress neither repudiated the

Theses adopted
in 1928 nor did it deviate to any considerable degree
from the tactics
elaborated by the Sixth Congress. The sharp edge of
revolutionary
agitation had to be turned primarily against those
imperialist coun-
tries that seemed to threaten the Soviet Union at
that time, but the
basic anti-imperialist struggle was not to be forgotten.
It seemed that

22 A full record of the Seventh World Congress of the
Communist International
may be found in *International Press Correspondence*, vol. XV
(1935). This quo-
tation comes from p. 963.
as *Ibid.*, p. 1299.

t'43]